

Remarks/Arguments

In the October 5, 2004 office action, claims 1-5, 7, 9, 11, 18 and 20-22 were rejected under section 102(b) as being anticipated by US Patent No. 6,085,509 to Plamper et al. Claims 8 and 10 were rejected under section 103(a) as being unpatentable over Plamper et al. Claims 12-14, 16-17 and 19 were rejected under section 103(a) as being unpatentable over Plamper et al in view of US Patent No. 4,149,363 to Woelffer et al. Claim 6 was rejected under section 103(a) as being unpatentable over Plamper et al in view of US Patent No. 6,155,034 to Velke et al. Claim 15 was rejected under section 103(a) as being unpatentable over Plamper et al In view of Woelffer et al, and further in view of Velke et al.

In response to the office action, applicant amends claims 1, 12, 18 and 21, and cancels claims 16 and 20.

Claim 1 is amended to specify the grass catcher is a one-piece molded box-like structure, and the reinforcing member is firmly gripped by and restrained against lateral and axial movement by the at least one retaining structure.

With respect to claim 1, Plamper et al does not show a one-piece molded box-like structure. Plamper et al does not show a reinforcing member that is firmly gripped by and restrained against lateral and axial movement. Instead, Plamper et al relates to grass bag 60 made of a porous material, and "attachment section 20 is sized so as to allow this section 20, once installed, to pivot freely about the tube or rod 40." See Plamper et al at column 2, lines 58-59.

Claims 2 - 11 are patentable for at least the same reasons as base claim 1.

Claim 12 is amended to specify a one-piece box-shaped molded plastic grass catcher having a rear-facing opening and a lower panel with an elevated lip at the opening, a reinforcing member positioned at the lower panel near the elevated lip, and at least one plastic retaining structure integrally formed with the box-shaped molded plastic grass catcher through which the reinforcing member may be press fitted.

With respect to claim 12, Plamper et al does not show a one-piece box-shaped molded plastic grass catcher. Plamper et al does not show a rear-facing opening. Plamper et al does not show a lower panel with an elevated lip at the opening. Plamper et al does not show at least one plastic retaining structure

integrally formed with a box-shaped molded plastic grass catcher. Plamper et al does not show a reinforcing member press fitted through a plastic retaining structure. Instead, Plamper et al shows grass bag 60 made of a porous material. Plamper et al shows attachment section 20 for snap over interconnection with grass bag frame 40. Plamper et al shows attachment section 20 near opening 25 that is not elevated, and is stitched to sewing section 30.

With respect to claim 12, Woelffer et al does not show a one-piece box-shaped molded plastic grass catcher. Woelffer et al does not show a rear-facing opening, and does not show a lower panel with an elevated lip at the opening. Woelffer et al does not show at least one plastic retaining structure integrally formed with a box-shaped molded plastic grass catcher. Woelffer et al does not show a reinforcing member press fitted through a retaining structure. Instead, Woelffer et al shows catcher 11 having a front-facing opening 33. The lower lip of opening 33 is not elevated. U-shaped rod 46 is not press fitted to attach it to the bag material.

Claims 13 - 15 and 17 are patentable for at least the same reasons as base claim 12.

Claim 18 is amended to specify a reinforced one-piece molded plastic grass catcher for a reel-type mower having an opening with a lower lip and a reinforcing member attached thereto and retaining structures formed integrally therewith, the integral retaining structures being the only structures gripping the reinforcing member in place.

With respect to claim 18, Plamper et al fails to show a reinforced one-piece molded plastic grass catcher for a reel-type mower. Plamper et al fails to show an opening with a lower lip and a reinforcing member attached thereto and retaining structures formed integrally therewith. Plamper et al also fails to show retaining structures gripping a reinforcing member in place. Instead, Plamper et al shows grass bag 60 made of a porous material for a rotary-type mower. Plamper et al shows attachment section 20 for snap over interconnection with grass bag frame 40. Attachment section 20 near opening 25 does not grip a reinforcing member in place, but "is sized so as to allow this section 20, once installed, to pivot freely about the tube or rod 40." See Pampler et al at column 2, lines 58-59.

Claim 21 is amended to specify a lower wall, and wherein the lower lip is in a horizontal plane above at least some portions of the lower wall. Plamper et al fails to

shows a lower lip in a horizontal plane above at least some portions of the lower wall. Plamper et al shows attachment section 20 near opening 25 in a horizontal plane at the same level.

In conclusion, it is believed that claims 1 - 15, 17 - 19, and 21-22 are in condition for allowance, and such allowance is respectfully requested.

Any fees or charges due as a result of filing of the present paper may be charged against Deposit Account 04-0525. Two duplicates of this page are enclosed.

Respectfully,

Attorney for Applicant(s)

Attorney for Applicant(s)

Stephen D. Dellett  
Reg. No. 32,564  
Patent Department  
Deere & Company  
One John Deere Place  
Moline, IL 61265  
Telephone No. (309) 765-4232

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited  
with the United States Postal Service as first class mail in an  
envelope addressed to:  
Commissioner for Patents  
P.O. Box 1450  
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450  
on 01 Dec 2004  
Date

Deere & Company

Signature

Date